



IPW

Docket 49519-2

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Re:

Applicant: LEBLANC

Group Art Unit: 3671

Serial No.: 10/619,418

Examiner: Alexandra K. Pechhold

Filed: July 16, 2003

For: "COLLAPSIBLE LOADING RAMP"

Honourable Commissioner of Patents
and Trademarks,
Washington, D.C. 20231,
U.S.A.

Sir:

RESPONSE

In response to the office action dated February 4, 2002, please amend the application as follows:

In the Disclosure:

Please amend the last paragraph on page 8 such that it reads as follows:

The ramp is foldable to facilitate storage thereof. FIGs ~~13 and 12 to 14~~ show embodiments of means for storing the ramp when it is not in use. In particular, FIG ~~13~~ 12 shows a carrying case 80 in which the individual unassembled pieces of the ramp, including rails 18 and cross members 26, can be packed. The clasps 82 on the carrying case 80 keep the case closed and the handle 84 allows for easy transportation of the stored ramp. Carrying case 80 is sized to accommodate all of the pieces of the ramp, with the rails folded about hinge 20 and the cross members 26 removed from posts 24 and stacked one upon the other.

Please amend the first paragraph on page 9 such that it reads as follows:

FIG ~~14~~ 13 shows, in partial exploded configuration, a stacked assembly of ramp pieces, including support rails 18, cross members 26 and panels 30 formed into a box-shaped structure for transport. In this assembly, cross members 26 are stacked one upon the other with side supports 22 aligned within the stack. Support rails 18 folded around the hinge fit between the cross members in the stack. Pins 90 are inserted through aligned apertures 28 in the stacked cross members. A lock clamp 92, or other locking means such as a spring biased detent, is provided in association with each pin 90 to releasably lock the pins through the apertures. In this embodiment, plate members 30C are placed on the top and the bottom of the stacked cross members 26 to form a solid outer face for the box structure. Plate members 30C are formed and sized to fit between side supports 22 with flanged ends 94 fitting down between adjacent rungs 27. Flanged ends 94 each include an opening 96, which can be engaged over pin 98 to secure the plates in place. A handle piece 99 can be attached to a cross member to allow the box structure to be easily transported.